

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01474 191210Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PA-01 H-01
INR-10 INRE-00 PM-05 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00
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O 191142Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7163
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1474

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, MILI, LE
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: CONVERSATION WITH CANADIAN AND UK
AMBASSADORS

REF: (A) BEIRUT 1438, (B) STATE 069283

1. BOTH CANADIAN AMBASSADOR COUVRETTE AND UK AMBASSADOR
WAKEFIELD CALLED ON DCM AT EMBASSY MARCH 19 TO DISCUSS
SOUTH LEBANON SITUATION.

2. CANADIAN AMBASSADOR SAID HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY OTTAWA
TO SEE FONMIN BOUTROS ASAP. DCM BRIEFED HIM ON DIPLOMATIC
ACTIVITIES OF PAST FEW DAYS AND SAID IT WAS USG VIEW THAT
DRAFT RESOLUTION WE HAD TABLED IN UNSC ON SATURDAY SHOULD
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BE APPROVED ASAP. COUVRETTE SAID HIS INSTRUCTIONS WERE TO
INFORM BOUTROS THAT CANADA SUPPORTED UNEF FOR SOUTH LEBANON
AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE TROOPS FOR SUCH A FORCE.

3. UK AMBASSADOR WAKEFIELD SAID HE HAD JUST RECEIVED A COPY
OF URQUHART'S REPORT ON PROPOSED UNEF FOR SOUTH LEBANON, WHICH
CALLED FOR A FORCE OF ABOUT 3,000 TROOPS PLUS 500 SUPPORT

PERSONNEL TO HANDLE LOGISTICS. (APPARENTLY LARGER FIGURE OF 13,000 WAS RESULT OF CONFESSION BETWEEN BRIGADES AND BATTALIONS). WAKEFIELD SAID UK MAY BE ASKED TO PROVIDE LOGISTICS PERSONNEL BUT NOT RPT NOT TROOPS. (HE IS PLEASED WITH THIS COMPROMISE BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN UNEASY WITH IDEA OF DIRECT PARTICIPATION BY UK TROOPS, GIVEN UK "HISTORICAL RELATIONSHIP" TO PALESTINIAN PROBLEM). WAKEFIELD SAID LATEST UN ESTIMATE WAS THAT IT MIGHT TAKE A WEEK TO GET UNEF IN PLACE, ALTHOUGH SOME PRELIMINARY MOVES HAD BEEN MADE TO GET A UNEF HQS. FOR LEBANON ORGANIZED. WAKEFIELD WAS CONFIDENT THAT US SPONSORED DRAFT RESOLUTION WOULD BE APPROVED BY UNSC TODAY.

4. WAKEFIELD ALSO RAISED QUESTION OF WHO WOULD POLICE PALESTINIANS IN THE GAP BETWEEN THE CORDON SANITAIRE ALONG THE BORDER AND THE ADF FORCES. WOULD ISRAELIS AGREE TO PERMIT SOME ELEMENTS OF ADF TO ADVANCE TO NORTHERN EDGE OF CORDON SANITAIRE FOR THIS PURPOSE? WOULD UNEF BE AUTHORIZED TO MOVE IN? WE ALL AGREED THAT THIS WILL BE KEY PROBLEM IN COMING DAYS.
PARKER

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